



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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The Senate and the Assembly are both in session. Friday is the last day for both houses to pass bills. The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn for the year on August 31, and the Governor will have until September 30 to sign or veto any bills passed by the Legislature.

In most instances, any bill presented to the Governor that is not signed within 12 days becomes a statute. There is an expectation that extends the 12-day signing period to September 30 for legislation that meets the following criteria 1) passed no later than August 31; 2) presented to the Governor on or after August 20; and 3) remains in the Governor's possession on or after September 1.

Please find a list of state legislative activities that the County and state advocates are monitoring and advocating for the week of August 27, 2012, as well as a brief recap of legislative items of interest below.

Status of County Advocacy Legislation

- County Supported AB 890 (Olsen), which was amended on August 24, 2012, would exempt certain public works projects from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), such as repair, maintenance, and minor alterations of existing roadways; provided that the project is initiated by a city or county to improve public safety, does not cross a waterway, and involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use, passed the Senate Environmental Quality committee on a 6-1 vote.

AB 890 is scheduled to be heard on the Senate.

- County Supported AB 1181 (Butler), which was amended on May 31, 2012, would reauthorize the State-County Property Tax Administration Loan Program, which was established by the Legislature to ensure counties had sufficient resources to assess the value of newly constructed properties or those which had changed ownership. On August 24, 2012, AB 1181 was amended to address provisions regarding the compliance of weights and measures.
- County Supported AB 1600 (Torres), which was amended on August 13, 2012, would authorize the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority (Authority) to facilitate the expansion of light-rail service to the City of Montclair, passed the Senate floor on a 36-0 vote.

AB 1600 bill has been enrolled to the Governor.

- County Supported AB 1712 (Beal), which would provide additional clean-up to the California Fostering Connections Act of 2010 and clear the way for full implementation, passed the Senate Appropriation committee on a 6-1 vote.

AB 1712 is scheduled to be heard on the Senate floor.

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.

State Legislative Activity Report

- County Supported if Amended AB 1585 (Perez), which was amended on August 24, 2012, would re-appropriate \$50 million of Proposition 1C bond funds to the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program and the Transit-Oriented Development Program, and transfers the responsibility to perform housing functions of a former redevelopment agency to the Department of Housing and Community Development under certain circumstances, passed the Senate appropriation committee on a 6-1 vote.

AB 1585 is scheduled to be heard on the Senate floor.

- County Supported AB 1623 (Yamada), which was amended on August 6, 2012, would extend the authority of a county board of supervisors to charge fees to recover the costs of the County Sealer, from January 1, 2013 to January 1, 2018 and provide adjustments to the fee for particular weighing and measuring devices to reflect the actual cost of providing services.

AB 1623 has been enrolled to the Governor.

- County Supported AB 2659 (Blumenfield), which was amended on August 24, 2012, would permit the DMV to waive the driving skills test required to obtain a commercial driver's license for a person with a U.S. Armed Forces military driver's license, passed the Assembly Transportation and Housing committee on a 14-0 vote.

AB 2659 is scheduled to be heard on the Senate floor.

- County Supported SB 1186 (Steinberg), which was amended on August 24, 2012, would prohibit an attorney or other person from issuing a demand for money to a building owner or tenant, or an agent or employee of a building owner or tenant, or from receiving any payment, settlement, compensation, or other remuneration pursuant to a demand for money that is provided or issued without or prior to the filing of a complaint on the basis of one or more construction-related accessibility violations, passed the Assembly Appropriation committee on a 17-0 vote.

SB 1186 is scheduled to be heard on the Assembly floor.

- County Supported SB 1544 (Hernandez), which was amended on May 2, 2012, would afford disaster loss treatment to taxpayers in the County of San Bernardino and Los Angeles affected by the severe winds in 2011, passed the Assembly floor on a 79-0 vote.

SB 1544 has been enrolled to the Governor.

- County Opposed Unless Amended AB 916 (Perez), which would require the Department of Public Health to report patient demographic data being served by County operated Federal Qualified Health Centers, was amended on August 23, 2012. The new amendments would establish a working group to consult with the federal government on the legal roles and responsibilities of federal and state agencies with regards to undocumented persons.
- County Opposed AB 2451 (Perez), which was amended on August 20, 2012, would extend the statute of limitation to allow safety officer's dependents to receive worker's compensation death benefits where the safety officer dies of presumed job-related injuries. In addition to the California State Association of Counties, the League of California Cities and numerous local agencies are opposed to AB 2451 because benefit costs will rise at a time when local agencies are struggling to provide residents with basics services.

AB 2451 passed the Senate floor on a 21-8 vote and is scheduled for concurrence in the Assembly.

State Legislative Activity Report

- County Opposed SB 744 (Wyland), which was amended on August 21, 2012, would remove the legal requirement that only license sealers of weight and measures or licensed service agents can test and place into commercial service a weighing, measuring, or counting device, with particular reference to water sub-meters, passed the Assembly floor on a 43-27 vote.

SB 744 is scheduled for concurrence of the Assembly amendments on the Senate floor.

- County Opposed SB 1222 (Leno), which was amended on August 21, 2012, would impose hard caps on solar permit fees, create unnecessary and burdensome administrative process and erode city and county decision making authority, passed the Assembly Appropriation committee on a 14-1 vote.

SB 1222 will be heard on the Assembly floor.

- County Opposed SB 1246 (Hernandez), which was amended on July 5, 2012, would impose additional penalties and regulatory oversight for staffing ration and patient classification systems noncompliance and hospital licensing violations. The bill sponsors, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the United Nurses Association of California, states SB 1246 would protect consumers by enforcing existing laws and regulations regarding nurses staffing in hospitals. Opponents such as the California Hospital Association, the California Nurses Association and other stakeholders indicate SB 1246 would impose non-immediate jeopardy penalties for hospitals without specific criteria, imposing unfair and inequitable distribution of penalties.

SB 1246 passed the Assembly floor on a 48-23 vote and is scheduled for concurrence of the Assembly amendments on the Senate floor.

Legislation of County Interest

- AB 345 (Torres), which was amended August 21, 2012, would reform how redevelopment agencies spend their Low and Moderate Income Housing Funds, passed the Senate floor on a 28-4 vote.

AB 345 is scheduled for concurrence of the Senate amendments on the Assembly floor.

- AB 1436 (Feuer), which was amended on August 6, 2012, would allow a person to register to vote and vote at the office of the county election official at any time, including on election day if certain requirements are met, passed the Senate floor on a 23-13 vote.

AB 1436 is scheduled for concurrence of the Senate amendments on the Assembly floor.

- AB 1411 (Perez), which was amended on August 24, 2012, would make changes to the selection of enterprise zones, passed the Senate appropriation committee on a 7-0 vote.

AB 1411 is scheduled to be heard on the Assembly floor.

- SB 214 (Kehoe), which was amended on August 24, 2012, would eliminate the voter approval requirement for a city or county to create an infrastructure financing district (IFD) and expand the types of projects that may be financed by a IFDs, is scheduled to be heard on the Assembly floor.

SB 214 is scheduled to be heard on the Senate floor.

State Legislative Activity Report

Pension Reform

The Pension Reform Conference Committee has scheduled hearings for today and tomorrow upon the call of the Chair. According to the Urban County Caucus (UCC), the conference committee report could be in print on Tuesday with a floor vote scheduled for Friday. UCC has indicated that the negotiations between the Governor's Office and the Legislature are not going well and the three main issues have not been resolved: stacked hybrid, equal share of pensions and the age of retirement.

State Responsibility Fee

As previously reported, State Responsibilities Area (SRA) fees will be mailed to counties in alphabetical order with San Bernardino County residents that reside in the SRA expected to receive their bills in October. In a last minute twist, a proposal to repeal the SRA fee surfaced on Friday. SB 1040 (McLeod) was amended to repeal the fire prevention fee on structures located in state responsibility areas contingent on the enactment of the controversial single sales tax factor proposed by Speaker John Perez.

SB 1040 is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly.

Mental Health Service Act Audit Gets Green Light

Last week, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee voted unanimously to approve an audit of how the state spends Proposition 63, the Mental Health Service Act, which places a 1 percent income tax on Californians earning \$1 million or more per year.

As previously reported, these funds, which have come under scrutiny recently, are set aside for early intervention, outreach, prevention, innovative services, building projects and mental health worker training. The audit is scheduled to begin in the next few weeks and will include Los Angeles County and a selection of one county each from the Inland Empire, Bay Area and Central. It is estimated the audit will require 4,500 staff hours and at minimum, seven to eight months to complete.

The scope and objective of the audit can be found [here](#).